A Soldier's Guide

Saudi Arabia

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A Soldier's Guide to SAUDI ARABIA

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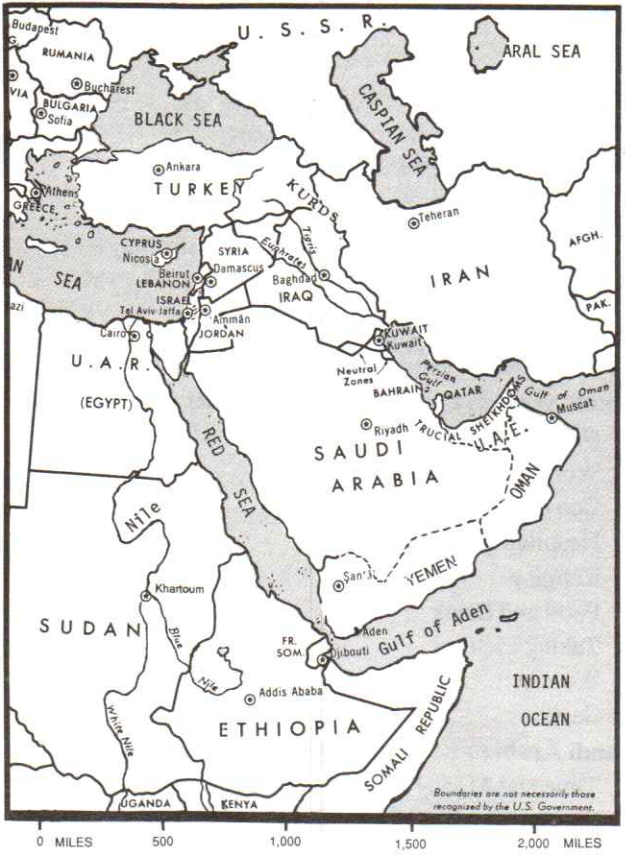
THE MIDDLE EAST



THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

PREFACE

The purpose of this booklet is to provide U.S. Army soldiers who deploy to Saudi Arabia (Operation Desert Shield) with some basic information about that nation and its culture. As invited guests and allies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, American soldiers should be aware of the customs and courtesies that are part of the everyday life of the Saudi people. This booklet will supply some of that basic cultural information, and also briefly describe the country of Saudi Arabia, its people, language, and lifestyle.

This booklet is not, and was not meant to be, a comprehensive guide. Such a publication would require many more pages of information and a more extensive coverage of each subject area. Rather, the intent is to provide a quick overview of the most important aspects of Saudi life in a compact format (one page wherever possible). We hope this will help American soldiers of all ranks and branches better understand the people and the country of Saudi Arabia.

August 1990

SAUDI ARABIAN FACTS

Geography

LOCATION: On the Arabian peninsula, with the Red Sea the primary western border and the Persian Gulf (the Saudis refer to it as the Arabian Gulf) partially on the eastern border. Nations which border Saudi Arabia include Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar.

SIZE: The Saudi Arabian government estimates the nation's size as 2,217,949 square kilometers. That's about 865,000 square miles (or the approximate combined size of our two largest states, Alaska and Texas) which makes it the 12th largest country in the world.

TERRAIN: Some coastal plains and salt marshes, but the vast interior is largely desert and includes the largest sand desert in the world (Rub Al-Khali). Mountains in the southwestern part reach 10,000 feet above sea level.

CAPITAL: Riyadh (population about 1.5 million people which makes it about the size of Philadelphia).

CLIMATE: Dry and arid (though can be very humid on the coasts). There are great temperature extremes with summer heat often as high as 120 degrees or more, and snow possible during winter in the mountain elevations.

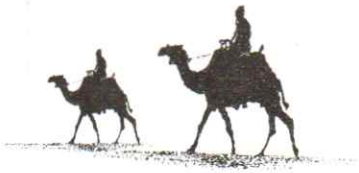
People

POPULATION: 12,678,000 (1989 estimate of World Almanac)—that's about the population of the state of Florida. The population density is 15 people per square mile, which approximates the population density of our state of Utah. The citizens are referred to as Saudis or Saudi Arabians.

LANGUAGE: Arabic.

ETHNIC GROUPS: Arabs (including Bedouin tribesmen) are the predominant group with over 90 percent of the native population. Afro-Asians (composed of immigrants from other nations) are the next largest ethnic groups.

RELIGION: Islam. All Saudi citizens are Muslims (the name for those who practice Islam), and Islam is the only legally recognized religion. Christianity is practiced only by non-citizens, such as the foreigners who work in the oil fields. Saudi Arabia is home to the two most sacred sites of Islam—the cities of Makkah (Mecca) and Madinah (Medina)—and religion is the single most important factor in Saudi Arabian life and culture.



Government

TYPE: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (which is the official title of the country) is a monarchy—it's ruled by the House or family of Saud, the head of which is the country's king. He is assisted by an established Council of Ministers appointed by him. The king performs executive, legislative, and judicial functions. There is no separate legislature, and the Islamic Courts of First Instance and Appeals serve a judicial role. The current ruler is King Fahd (full title: His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques).

CONSTITUTION: Saudi Arabia has no constitution similar to what we have in the United States, but is governed according to Islamic law (Shariah) which functions like a constitution.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS: There are 14 provinces (emirates) within the country.

CURRENCY: Riyal (as of August 1990: 3.75 Saudi Riyals = $1.00 US)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Saudi Arabia belongs to the United Nations (a charter member), the Arab League, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and other international organizations. It also is a leading state of the Gulf Coordination Council (GCC) which includes the states of Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

History

In spite of a harsh, inhospitable climate, civilization has existed in the Arabian peninsula for more than 5,000 years. While the pharaohs were ruling Egypt and other ancient empires were prospering, settlements were also well established in this part of the world. However, it would be many centuries before a unified state arose from the various Arab tribes and families that populated the peninsula.

America was still a colony of England when the original roots of the Saudi state first sprang to life. In the year 1745, a local ruler named Muhammad bin Saud joined forces with Muhammad Abdul Wahhab, a Muslim reformer, to establish a new political order in the area. They united political rule with religious principles and in doing so began to create the underpinnings of modern Saudi Arabia.

It was not until this century though, that the modern Saudi state came into being. Beginning in 1902, a descendant of the Saud family, Abdulaziz Al Saud, conquered and consolidated various parts of the peninsula. Finally, in 1932, these regions were unified as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The history of Saudi Arabia since the late 1930s is tied in many ways to "black gold" — oil. Discovered in the eastern part of the country in 1938, oil eventually became the key to Saudi Arabia's growth and development in the 20th century. The oil reserves are the largest in the world, and by some estimates they equal more than 25 percent of the known reserves in the world today.

Although Saudi Arabia as a nation is not that old, one historic event of worldwide significance occurred within its present day boundaries. The prophet Muhammad, founder of the Islam religion, was born in Arabia in 570 A.D. (in Makkah, often written as "Mecca" in English), spent his life there, and died there in 632 A.D. (in Madinah, where he is buried). That fact has had a deep impact on Saudi Arabia, making it the recognized center of the Islamic religion. Thousands of Muslims take pilgrimages to Makkah each year in accordance with their strong religious beliefs.

Transportation

How do people get around in Saudi Arabia? Historically, the camel was always a dependable means of transportation, but today every type of modern transportation is available to citizens and visitors alike. Most people usually drive their own cars or trucks. Remember though, travel to the cities of Makkah (Mecca) and Madinah (Medina) is restricted—only Muslims are permitted to visit those holy cities.

ROADS: As of the mid 1980s, approximately 19,500 miles of paved roads existed in Saudi Arabia and 25,200 miles of unpaved roads. Many of the paved roads are expressways. Taxis, limousine service, and rental cars are available for visitors.

RAILROADS: A train route between Dhahran on the east coast and Riyadh the capital carries about 400,000 passengers a year. This is the only rail system on the Arabian Peninsula and it is operated by the Saudi Government Railway Organization (SGRO).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: A large fleet of conventional and double-deck busses operated by the Saudi Public Transport Company (SAPTCO) transports well over 100 million passengers a year.

AIR TRAVEL: Both large international airports and smaller domestic ones are found in Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's (the capital) international airport has nearly 150 departing flights each day.

Sports and Recreation

While you're unlikely to see many football (American style) or baseball games in Saudi Arabia, that doesn't mean you can't find sports activities in the country. The Saudis take part in many sports familiar to Americans, as well as a number of sports traditional to their own region. They also have, and are building more, modern sports facilities.

TRADITIONAL SPORTS: Falconry, horse racing, and camel racing are three of the region's more traditional sports. Horse racing often features the Arabian horse which has a bloodline going back 5,000 years and is considered one of the finest breeds in the world. Camel racing once took place in the open desert but now is held in modern racetracks attracting crowds of 30,000 people. In keeping with religious guidelines, betting is not permitted at any of the racetracks.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS: Soccer, cycling, handball, volleyball, and table tennis are among the sports competitions that Saudi teams participate in at regional and international levels. Soccer (known as football outside the U.S.) is a major sport and there are several professional teams. Track and field, swimming, and basketball facilities are expanding as these sports become increasingly popular among Saudi citizens.

SAUDI ARABIAN CUSTOMS & COURTESIES

Greetings

GENERAL

This guidance applies mostly to men. Also see the section "Women."

DO—

- Shake hands (always offering your right hand; the left hand is considered unclean) whenever you meet or take leave of an Arab.
- Grasp the hand more loosely than in a Western handshake.
- Shake hands with everyone in a room you enter or depart.
- Rise to show respect when an esteemed person enters the room.
- Learn a few of the common Arabic greetings and use them. Arabs are genuinely pleased when you use their language, even if you know only a few expressions.
- Feel free to return a hug, or a kiss on the cheek, initiated by an Arab man. (To the Arab, these are signs of friendship, not homosexuality.)

DON'T—

- Use Arab greetings (spoken or gestured) unless you're sure how to use them correctly.
- Hug or kiss an Arab unless you're sure he's a close friend or unless he initiates.

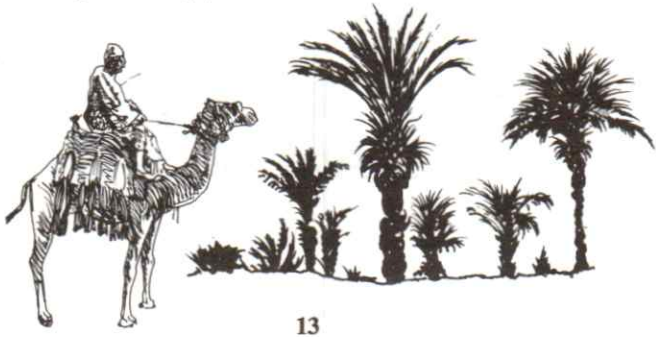
Working with Arabs

DO—

- Sincerely greet the Arabs you'll work with and see to their comfort before tackling the mission.
- Respect the individual dignity of all Arabs and be polite to them at all times.
- Maintain an attitude of patience and quiet strength.
- Train officers and enlisted men separately if you can.
- Refer any serious problem to an Arab leader.

DON'T—

- Criticize an Arab. If corrective guidance is needed, give it privately and positively.
- Overpraise an Arab in front of others.
- Lose your temper.
- Expect Arabs to be punctual for business meetings. (An appointment for 10 a.m. could mean about 10:30 a.m. in most situations. In the military most leaders now appreciate and practice punctuality.)



Conversation

DO—

- Open conversation with small talk and pleasantries. (Ask, "How are you today?" and "How's your family?")
- Follow the conversational lead of the Arab; discuss what he brings up.
- Talk to the Arab as an equal.
- Avoid arguments.
- Place your feet flat on the floor if you're sitting in a chair, or fold them under you if you're sitting on the floor.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Look for subtle or double meanings in what an Arab says. (Arabs often answer indirectly.)

DON'T—

- Show impatience or undue haste.
- Ask direct personal questions, especially about female family members of an Arab. (In fact, don't discuss them at all.)
- Discuss political subjects.
- Discuss religion unless you know what you're talking about.
- Try to convert a Muslim to your faith.
- Patronize or talk down to an Arab, even if he doesn't speak English well.
- Say "no" when an Arab asks a favor of you, or admit you don't know the answer to a question. (Instead, say you'll look into it or take it up with your superiors.)
- Avoid eye contact.
- Move away from an Arab who stands close to you during conversation. (It's customary for Arabs to stand about one foot apart to size up each other before entering a business or personal relationship. Touching and patting may be part of this process.)
- Point the soles of your feet at an Arab when you are sitting with him. (To do so implies you're placing him under your feet, an insult.)
- Be offended when an Arab shows great interest in your social, personal, professional, and academic background. (He may ask about your salary, what you paid for your car, etc. He's assessing you before accepting you as a friend or business associate. Arabs don't enter personal or business relationships casually or lightly as we do in Western culture.)

Hospitality

GENERAL

Arab host-guest rules apply not only within the home but also to chance meetings in restaurants and casual invitations to lunch. The inviter is always the host. If you meet by chance in a cafe or restaurant, the person already there is the host and usually pays the bill. "Splitting the bill" is contrary to Arab custom.

AS A GUEST, DO—

- Arrive on time and expect a meal if you are invited to an Arab home. (Remember, Arabs usually give approximate times but will welcome guests warmly whenever they arrive.)
- Understand that if your wife or a female friend accompanies you, she may be separated from you during the visit to join the women in their living area.
- Always use your right hand in eating, drinking, offering, passing, or receiving anything. (See "Food and Drink.")
- Try all the different foods offered you. (You may ask about a dish that is unfamiliar to you.)
- Fill your plate and eat what's on it with gusto.
- Take seconds, even if only a small amount. It's a compliment to your host.
- Compliment your host on the food, and wish him always a full table.

• Take your leave promptly after the second or third round of coffee or tea after a meal. (Arabs socialize and converse before the meal, not after.)
• Thank the host profusely for his hospitality and good conversation.
• Plan to return hospitality.

AS A GUEST, DON'T—

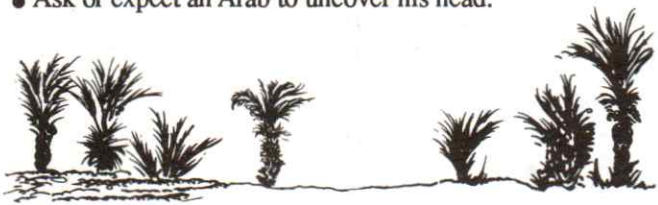
• Feel obligated to bring a gift. (If you do bring a gift, make it a gift for the children, which is always appreciated.)
• Praise too much any possession of your host; he may give it to you! (If he does, you're expected to give something in return.)
• Linger long after the meal as we do in Western culture.

AS A HOST, DO—

• Accompany your guest outside the door or gate when he leaves.

AS A HOST, DON'T—

• Appear anxious to end the visit even if you are.
• Ask or expect an Arab to uncover his head.



Religion

GENERAL

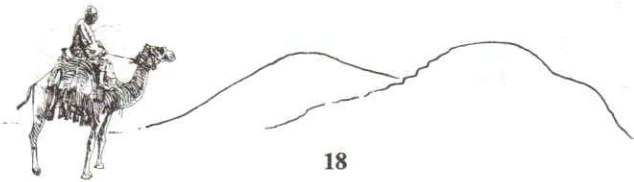
The Islamic religion is the single most important factor in Saudi Arabian life and culture. It's not only a religion; it's a way of life.

Permanent residents of Saudi Arabia must be Muslims. No public worship of any other religion is permitted. To deface any religious object or defame any portion of the Islamic religion is a grievous offense. To deny the Islamic faith is punishable by death.

The legal system of Saudi Arabia (as well as several other countries on the Arabian peninsula) is the Shariah law, which is based on the Koran (Quran) and the precedents of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. The Koran is the Holy Book of Islam.

DO—

- Understand and respect the devoutness of Muslims.
- Respect the requirement for Muslims to fast during the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Hegira calendar. In 1991, the holy month of Ramadan corresponds to the period March 17th through April 15th on the Western calendar.



DON'T—

- Enter a mosque (the Muslim place of worship), or the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, if you're not a Muslim.
- Stay on the downtown streets during prayer times, especially near the Great Mosque and Fort areas.
- Pass in front of a prayer rug during prayers.
- Stare at Muslims praying or take photographs of them praying. (Muslims pray five times a day, facing Mecca, wherever they happen to be.)
- Offer food, beverages, or tobacco products to Muslims in the hours of fasting (dawn to sunset) during the holy month of Ramadan.
- Eat, smoke or drink anything in public (or in vehicles) during the day in the holy month of Ramadan.
- Drive near a mosque during the Arab weekend (Thursday and Friday).
- Display a crucifix or star of David in public, even as jewelry.
- Distribute non-Muslim religious literature.
- Criticize Islam in any way or try to convert a Muslim to your faith.

Food and Drink

DO—

- Use your right hand to offer, pass, or eat food. (At most meals, you'll eat with your hands. If silverware is provided, use it as you normally would.)

DON'T—

- Offer pork or alcohol to a Muslim. (Some T-rations and MREs contain pork.)
- Drink alcohol or eat pork in public.
- Appear drunk in public.
- Eat, smoke or drink anything in public (or in vehicles) during the day in the holy month of Ramadan.

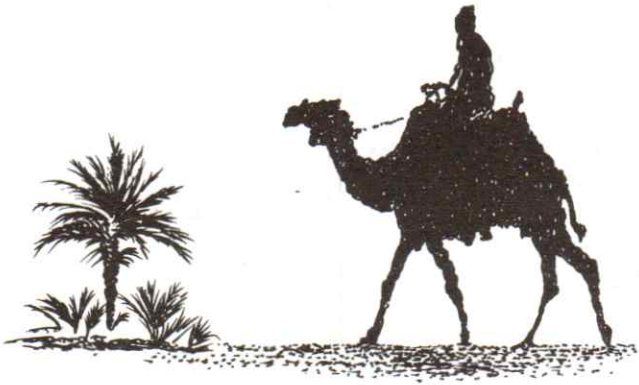
Taking Pictures

DO—

- Ask permission to take pictures. (Cameras and film may be confiscated by ordinary Saudi citizens. Photography is extremely sensitive.)

DON'T—

- Take pictures of Muslims praying.
- Take pictures of an Arab woman without permission; even then, make sure male members of her family are in the picture.
- Take pictures of military installations and equipment, military or civilian police, and civilian airport or seaport facilities without permission of the host country.



Women

GENERAL

Arab women have a protected role, symbolized by the veil they wear. As part of this role, their participation in public life is clearly limited. Muslims believe open social relations between the sexes result in the breakdown of family life. Contact between men and women, therefore, is rigidly controlled.

For example, women in Saudi Arabia do not normally drive automobiles. Dancing in public and mixed swimming/bathing are forbidden as well.

If you're a male guest in an Arab's home, you're not likely to see any female members of the family. With very little exception, women don't interact with men outside their family.

IF YOU'RE A MAN, DO—

- Respect the privacy and protected role of Arab women.

IF YOU'RE A MAN, DON'T—

- Try to date an Arab woman.
- Try to engage an Arab woman in conversation unless you've been formally introduced.
- Stare at Arab women or maintain eye contact with them.
- Talk in public to professional women, even non-Saudi women, except on business.
- Kiss, touch or show affection toward any woman in public,

including a non-Saudi woman.

- Ask an Arab direct questions about his wife or other female members of his family.
- Expect an Arab to introduce you to any veiled woman who accompanies him.

IF YOU'RE A WOMAN, DO—

- Dress in a manner acceptable to Arabs. (Uniforms authorized for U.S. Armed Forces are always correct. For civilian attire, Western clothing is OK if it fits loosely and covers the neck, arms, and legs. Many Western women wear suq dresses (dresses for shopping) when they shop "on the economy"; they're cotton and cost about $10 locally. Some wear or carry an abiah (a black cloak) as well. Western women aren't expected to wear veils. In a compound or facility for U.S. personnel, wear what you like.)
- Expect to ride in the back of public buses.
- Expect to be excluded from some stores.

IF YOU'RE A WOMAN, DON'T—

- Wear pants in public unless they're part of your authorized uniform as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Wear tight or revealing clothing in public, considered immodest and undignified in Arab culture.
- Kiss, touch or show affection toward any man, including a non-Saudi man, in public.

Gestures

It may come in handy to know what Arab gestures mean. Here are a few of them.

- Touching noses together three times. This is an old Bedouin gesture of greeting that shows friendship and respect.
- Kissing your own right hand, then raising your eyes, and your right hand. This means "Thank you."
- Placing the palm of the right hand on the chest right after shaking hands with another man. This can mean "Thank you" or "No, thank you" and shows respect. It's often used in refusing food, in which case the heart is patted several times. A slight bow of the head may be added.
- Touching the fingertips of your right hand to your forehead while bowing the head slightly. This is a gesture of deep respect.
- Placing the right hand or forefinger on the tip of the nose, right-lower eyelid, top of the head, mustache or beard. This means "I see it," "It's on my mind" or "It's my responsibility."
- Making the "A-OK" sign, as used in Western culture. In the Arab world this means the "evil eye" and is often used with curses. It can also mean "perfect" if held at chest level and used when talking about something good. (Don't use this gesture even if you mean "perfect"; it might not be taken as you intend!)
- Holding the right hand in front of the face, palm in, then flipping the hand so the palm is up. This means "No."
- Pointing the index finger at someone, or beckoning with it. This shows contempt for the person beckoned or pointed at, as if he were an animal. (Don't use this gesture!)

SAUDI ARABIAN LIFE & LANGUAGE

Time and Money

TIME: All of Saudi Arabia is within one time zone—Greenwich Mean Time plus three hours. This equates to eight hours ahead of the Eastern Standard Time Zone of the United States East Coast (or seven hours ahead during Daylight Savings Time in the U.S.). Thus if it's 8 p.m. in Saudi Arabia, it would be noon in New York (or 11 a.m. in Chicago; 10 a.m. in Denver; 9 a.m. in Los Angeles). If you were to travel east of Saudi Arabia, for instance into Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates, the time zone changes another hour ahead (E.S.T. plus nine).

MONEY: The Saudi currency is the riyal (SR). Listed below is the approximate exchange rate for U.S. dollars as of August 1990.

Currency Conversion

Riyals		Dollars
SR — 1.00	=	$ .27
SR — 3.75	=	$ 1.00
SR — 5.00	=	$ 1.33
SR — 10.00	=	$ 2.67
SR — 50.00	=	$ 13.33
SR — 100.00	=	$ 26.67
SR — 500.00	=	$133.33

Law

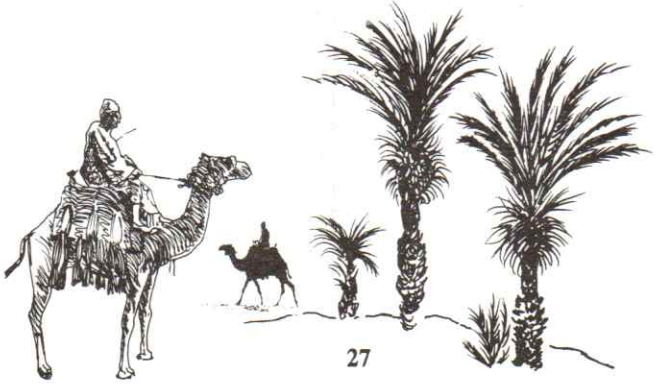
When speaking of law in Saudi Arabia, you are also speaking of religion. Islamic law, called the Shariah, is the law of the land and is based on both the Koran (Quran) or Holy Book of Islam and the traditions (hadith) of Muhammad's life which have been handed down. The Shariah not only defines crimes and sets punishment, it also establishes a way of life—actions that you should take as well as things you must do.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: Probably the three most serious crimes in Saudi Arabia are: denial of the Islamic faith, homicide, and adultery. They are considered crimes against society and carry the death penalty. As in most Arab nations, punishment for crime is often physical in nature (e.g. caning or whipping, partial dismemberment) and carried out in a public place.

DRIVING AND THE LAW: A driver involved in an accident can be charged with drunk driving if a police officer on the scene smells alcohol on the driver's breath—just a single beer could bring that result. Attempts to avoid an accident at the last minute (e.g. applying the brakes, sounding the horn) are expected and should be explained to the police investigator. Traffic accidents normally result in a fine.

FOREIGNERS AND THE LAW: As in other nations, foreigners must comply with the laws of Saudi Arabia while staying there. Violating prohibitions against the sale of alcohol, narcotics, firearms, and obscenity are some examples of punishable crimes that foreigners often commit. While the physical punishment of foreigners is rare, long prison terms are not. Expulsion from the country is another punitive action that non-citizens may face.

STATUS OF U.S. FORCES: The status of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia is governed by agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia. Members of U.S. forces and accompanying civilian personnel are obligated to respect Saudi law. Most violations of Saudi law are also violations of U.S. law as well, and punitive or other actions can be taken under appropriate U.S. military or civilian law or regulation.



Business and Shopping

The business and shopping life of Saudi Arabia differs from the patterns in the United States. As a quick guide, you might want to keep the following points in mind:

BUSINESS HOURS:

Government offices — 0730 to 1430 hrs
Private businesses — 0800 to 1200, and 1500 to 1800
Bank offices — 0800 to 1200, and 1600 to 2000
Markets and bazaars— open from mid-morning to 2100

Note that these hours are general guidelines and will fluctuate somewhat depending on prayer times during which all shops and offices close.

HOLIDAYS & WEEKENDS: The "weekend" in Saudi Arabia is Thursday and Friday, with Friday being considered the holy day of Islam. Offices and businesses are closed. Religious holidays, such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha which each last ten days or more, also result in a business and government shut-down.

SHOPPING: While some modern shopping malls are available in the capital (Riyadh) and elsewhere, the suqs (markets) offer more traditional shopping. You'll find everything from jewelry and antiques to clothing and rugs. Remember, you are expected to bargain on the price so shop with that in mind.

Sensitive Areas

As guests within a host country, you should avoid subjects or situations which are sensitive to Saudis and other Arabs. In general, the subjects listed below are some of the issues that fall in the sensitive category.

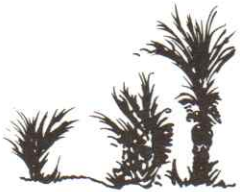
- Photographs of the U.S. vs. Muslims.
- Articles or stories which discuss the friendship and ties between the U.S. and Israel.
- Sensual advertisements such as perfume ads, blue jean ads, women's lingerie, and so forth.
- Ads for gambling, alcohol, and the like.
- Pictures of men and women embracing, kissing, dancing, etc.
- Pictures of the crucifix, Star of David, etc.
- Anti-Arab demonstrations or sentiments in the U.S.
- Discussing unfavorable actions by Arabs.
- Discussing support for Israeli actions and presence in Lebanon.
- Creating non-Islamic religious organizations or acting to convert others to non-Islamic religions.
- Criticizing Islamic religious customs, media coverage and censorship, women's rights, and enforced dress and moral standards.

Words and Expressions

Listings show first the English word or expression, then the English spelling of the equivalent Arabic word or expression (after the colon) and, last, the phonetic word in parentheses. Pronounce phonetic words as if written in English.

Words

Cloak (for women): Abiah (A-bah-yah)
Hospital: Mustashfa (Mus-TASH-fa)
I: Ana (Ah-nah)
Left: Ashmaal (Ish-shi-mal) or Yasar (Yah-sar)
Market: Suq (Sook—rhymes with "juke")
Right (direction): Yamin (Yuh-meen)
Sick: Mareedh (Muh-reed)
Telephone: Hatif (Huh-tif) or Telfin (Tel-fen)
Today: 'Al-youm (El-yom)
Tomorrow: Boukra (BOK-rah)
Yesterday: 'Ams (Uhms)
You (male): Ant (EN-tah)
You (female) Ant (EN-tee)



Expressions

Good evening: Masaa il khayr (Muh-sa-el-CARE)
Good morning: Sabaah il khayr (Sa-BAH el-CARE)
Goodbye: Ma'as-salaama (Mass-suhl-am-muh)
Hello: Marhaba (Muhr-hubba)
Hello (on the phone): Alo, alo (Uh-loh, uh-loh)
How much?: Kam? (Kam?) or Bi Kam (Bee-Kam)
I do not have...: Ma'indi... (Muh-indie)
I do not know: Ma a'arif (Muh-uh-uhrif)
If God wills: Inshalla (In-sha-lah)
It's possible: Momken (Moem-kim)
My name is...: Ismi... (Is-me...)
No: La (Luh)
No problem!: Mafi Mushkilla (Ma-fee Moosh-killa)
Please: Min fadlak (Min-FAHD-luk)
Thanks: Shukran (Shoe-krahn)
There is none: Mafi (Ma-fee)
Welcome: Ahlan wa sahlan (Ah-lun-wuh-sah-luhn)
Where is...?: Fain...? (Fah-een...?) or Wain...? (Wah-een...?)
Where is it on this map?: Fain'ala lkhaarita? (Fah-een AH-lah el-kha-REE-tah?)
Yes: Aiwa (I-wah)

Numbers

0: Sifir (SIF-re)
1: Wahid (WAH-hed)
2: Itnain (Et-NAYN)
3: Talatah (Ta-LA-ta)
4: Arba'ah (Ahr-BAH-ah)
5: Khamsah (KHAM-sa)
6: Sittah (SIT-ta)
7: Saba'ah (SAHB-ah)
8: Tamanyah (Ta-MAHN-ya)
9: Tis'ah (TES-ah)
10: 'Ashara (AH-shah-rah)
100: Miya (MAY-ya)